Rome Scala Santa
Sep^r 2^d. 1878

My dear Maria

I am grieved at your account of poor Tom going round the room on Crutches, how weak he must be, but as you say "it is the destiny of us old people" & I hobble about with a stick & am very weak

you enjoin me not to care about my painting & you will delight to hear that I only talk about it, - just now I am contemplating a new picture of 12 figures, but I dont think there is any real chance of it, for it would be beyond my strength & I should break down in the middle of it. I am sadly annoyed with the visitation of Bugs in great number altho I am very clean & I am obliged to have my sofa all pulled to pieces & trimmed with poison - if that will do?

you'll be glad to hear that I have got rid of my "lantern jaws" & am getting up my old impudence

1878

Miss Maria Severn
P.th. Severn's Esq^r
24 Lyme St. Camden Road
Camden Town London N.W.

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which has always helped me, whatever you may
say & I am striving. Must it shall help me now
Poor Caroline but she'll get on well, the Revd
Mr Gribble I knew & I gave him a letter to her, years
ago I have not suffered from the heats
October 8
Glad I am to tell you that I am really well
& at work, but glad that the heats is done & now
we have divine weather
I am most kindly attended by the Doctor
down to Bella — great bother has been caused by
an invasion of Bugs!! which Sy. Victoria has
eradicated most completely.
I hope to hear a good account of poor dear Tom
that he is calm — also of yourself, that you open your
windows now & then
The charming Miss Pallisers has sustained in
Rome & is now at Sienna, she has often visited me
& one day dined with us, May Cane is near done
after 10 years idle work but it begins to please me
I hope & trust you & Tom have not lost many
relations in the Ramsey disaster. with love to all
your loving brother Joe